

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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WT/CTE/4  
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## REPORT (1999) OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. The Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) continued to analyze the work programme set out in the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment following the cluster approach, under the themes of market access and the linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas. Discussions in the CTE took place under the Chairmanship of Ambassador Chak Mun See (Singapore), followed by the Chairmanship of Ambassador István Major (Hungary).
2. The CTE held three meetings in 1999 (see attached Annex). The 18-19 February meeting addressed those items of the work programme relevant to the theme of market access, items 2, 3, 4 and 6. The discussions focused primarily on the sectors of agriculture and fisheries, while there were also discussions on energy, forestry, non-ferrous metals, textiles and clothing, leather and environmental services. The sectoral discussions and the working papers submitted by Members highlighted areas where the removal of trade restrictions and distortions can be both environmentally and economically beneficial.
3. The focus of the meeting held on 29-30 June was on those items related to the multilateral environment and trade agendas, including items 1, 5, 7 and 8. On 29 June, the CTE held an Information Session with five Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) relevant to the work of the CTE in order to inform Members on the trade-related developments in these agreements. Presentations and papers were provided by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests; and the International Tropical Timber Organization. This meeting illustrated how trade-related measures function in MEAs and helped to deepen the understanding of the MEA relationship to the multilateral trading system. The 12-13 October meeting focused on Items 9 and 10, reviewed both thematic clusters, and adopted this report of the CTE to the General Council.
4. The CTE extended observer status to the following international intergovernmental organizations in 1999: the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; the Islamic Development Bank; the South Pacific Forum; the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre; and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
5. In 1999, the WTO Environmental Database (EDB) was updated by the Secretariat in document WT/CTE/W/118. The EDB was established in 1998 in fulfilment of the recommendation in the 1996 Report of the CTE to the Singapore Ministerial Conference (WT/CTE/1) to compile and update annually all environment-related notifications to the WTO.
6. A High-Level Symposium on Trade and Environment was held on 15-16 March 1999. Participation included senior level representatives from trade, environment, and development ministries as well as other government agencies of WTO Members which deal with matters related to sustainable development. Participation included representation from approximately 130 environment, development, consumer and industry NGOs as well as academia, from developed and developing countries. The Symposium included presentations by the Director-General of the WTO, the Executive Secretary of UNEP, and representatives from the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the

World Bank and UNCTAD. This meeting provided a forum for a useful exchange of views and information between the trade and environment communities. Funding from donor governments provided for the participation of representatives from least-developed Member countries and developing country NGOs.

7. In continuation of last year's initiative, the Secretariat organized regional seminars on trade and environment for government officials from developing and least-developed countries in Zimbabwe and Djibouti in 1999. The objective of these seminars was to raise awareness on the linkages between trade, environment and sustainable development and to enhance the dialogue between policymakers from Ministries of both trade and environment in WTO Member Governments.

8. Pending the future work programme of the WTO, the CTE agreed to hold three meetings in 2000 and to continue to deepen the analysis of all items on the work programme based on the thematic clusters with the objective of fulfilling the mandate of the CTE.

ANNEX

Work Programme and Schedule of Meetings for 1999

1. The 1998 Report of the Committee on Trade and Environment (WT/CTE/3) sets out that the CTE will advance the analysis of all the items on its work programme based on the "cluster approach" under the themes of market access and the linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas. The contribution of Members, including where possible their national experience, on the items of the work programme should enrich these discussions and move forward the process of fulfilling the tasks mandated in the terms of reference of the CTE. Time will be allotted for Members, if they so wish, to return to Items discussed at the previous meeting.

2. The CTE meeting of 18-19 February will address those Items relevant to the theme of market access, including:

- Item 2: the relationship between environmental policies relevant to trade and environmental measures with significant trade effects and the provisions of the multilateral trading system;
- Item 3: the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and:
  - (a) charges and taxes for environmental purposes;
  - (b) requirements for environmental purposes relating to products, including standards and technical regulations, packaging, labelling and recycling;
- Item 4: the provisions of the multilateral trading system with respect to the transparency of trade measures used for environmental purposes and environmental measures and requirements which have significant trade effects; and
- Item 6: the effect of environmental measures on market access, especially in relation to developing countries, in particular to the least developed among them, and environmental benefits of removing trade restrictions and distortions.

3. At a meeting on 29-30 June the CTE will discuss the Items related to the linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas, including:

Information session with selected Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

- Item 1: the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and trade measures for environmental purposes, including those pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements;
- Item 5: the relationship between the dispute settlement mechanisms in the multilateral trading system and those found in multilateral environmental agreements;
- Item 7: the issue of exports of domestically prohibited goods; and
- Item 8: the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

4. On 12-13 October, the CTE's discussions will include:

Items under the market access cluster (Items 2, 3, 4 and 6);

Items under the linkages between the multilateral environment and trade agendas cluster (Items 1, 5, 7 and 8);

Item 9: the work programme envisaged in the Decision on Trade in Services and the Environment;

Item 10: input to the relevant bodies in respect of appropriate arrangements for relations with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations referred to in Article V of the WTO; and

adoption of the 1999 Report of the CTE

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